

Congress has reacted strongly to the proposed regulation with 65 Senators and 263 House Members publicly criticizing the rule. Ultimately, Congress temporarily prevented CMS from implementing the regulation. A 1-year moratorium of the rule was adopted in the recent supplemental appropriations bill, P.L. 110-28, Section 7002. This moratorium blocks CMS from implementing the Medicaid regulation before May 25, 2008.

In spite of clear Congressional disapproval, CMS published a final rule in the Federal Register the very day the President signed the 1-year moratorium provision into law. The final regulation retains the most damaging components of the proposed regulation, including limiting Medicaid payments to safety-net hospitals. In addition, we have been contacted by State Medicaid agencies that have been asked to certify in State Plan Amendments being considered this year that they will be in compliance with rule as soon as the moratorium is lifted in 2008.

Major Medicaid reforms require a Congressional role; by rushing to publish a final regulation, CMS has disregarded Congressional opposition and attempted to usurp our role. CMS's action requires States to prepare for implementation of the regulation and expend administrative resources to do so, all of this before Congress has the opportunity to address the key policy issues contained in the regulation.

This Resolution of Disapproval will permanently halt the damaging CMS regulation. At this time, it is the appropriate response given CMS's issuance of the final Medicaid rule and its devastating effect on State Medicaid programs, safety-net providers, and, ultimately, the ability of low-income Americans to receive the life-saving medical care to which they are entitled under Federal law.

Therefore, I rise today to offer joint resolution with my colleagues and urge others to join in cosponsoring this important resolution. Together we can work to ensure its passage before the devastating Medicaid rule takes effect and jeopardizes our States' Medicaid programs.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 18

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services within the Department of Health and Human Services relating to a cost limit for providers operated by units of government and other provisions under the Medicaid program (published at 72 Fed. Reg. 29748 (May 29, 2007)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 315—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT GENERAL DAVID H. PETRAEUS, COMMANDING GENERAL, MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ, DESERVES THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE SENATE AND STRONGLY CONDEMN PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THE HONOR AND INTEGRITY OF GENERAL PETRAEUS AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 315

Whereas, the Senate unanimously confirmed General David H. Petraeus as Commanding General, Multi-National Force-Iraq, by a vote of 81-0 on January 26, 2007.

Whereas, General Petraeus graduated first in his class at the United States Army Command and General Staff College.

Whereas, General Petraeus earned Masters of Public Administration and Doctoral degrees in international relations from Princeton University.

Whereas, General Petraeus has served multiple combat tours in Iraq, including command of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during combat operations throughout the first year of Operation Iraqi Freedom, which tours included both major combat operations and subsequent stability and support operations.

Whereas, General Petraeus supervised the development and crafting of the United States Army and Marine Corps counterinsurgency manual based in large measure on his combat experience in Iraq, scholarly study, and other professional experiences.

Whereas, General Petraeus has taken a solemn oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

Whereas, during his 35-year career, General Petraeus has amassed a distinguished and unvarnished record of military service to the United States as recognized by his receipt of a Defense Distinguished Service Medal, two Distinguished Service Medals, two Defense Superior Service Medals, four Legions of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the State Department Superior Honor Award, the NATO Meritorious Service Medal, and other awards and medals.

Whereas, a recent attack through a full-page advertisement in the New York Times by the liberal activist group, Moveon.org, impugns the honor and integrity of General Petraeus and all the members of the United States Armed Forces: Now, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate (1) to reaffirm its support for all the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, including General David H. Petraeus, Commanding General, Multi-National Force-Iraq;

(2) to strongly condemn any effort to attack the honor and integrity of General Petraeus and all the members of the United States Armed Forces; and

(3) to specifically repudiate the unwarranted personal attack on General Petraeus by the liberal activist group Moveon.org.

SENATE RESOLUTION 316—DESIGNATING THE WEEKS OF OCTOBER 21 THROUGH OCTOBER 27, 2007 AS "NATIONAL CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK"

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BIDEN,

Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 316

Whereas lead poisoning is a leading environmental health hazard to children in the United States;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 240,000 preschool children in the United States have harmful levels of lead in their blood;

Whereas lead poisoning may cause serious, long-term harm to children, including reduced intelligence and attention span, behavior problems, learning disabilities, and impaired growth;

Whereas children from low-income families are significantly more likely to be poisoned by lead than are children from high-income families;

Whereas children may be poisoned by lead in water, soil, or consumable products;

Whereas children most often are poisoned in their homes through exposure to lead particles when lead-based paint deteriorates or is disturbed during home renovation and repainting; and

Whereas lead poisoning crosses all barriers of race, income, and geography: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 21 through October 27, 2007, as "National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 317—TO CONSTITUTE THE MINORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 110TH CONGRESS OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the minority party's appointments to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the remainder of the 110th Congress or until their successors are chosen: Mr. BURR, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ENSIGN.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2808. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3074, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

SA 2809. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3074, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.